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# Weekly Summary

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Approved for Release  
Date 1 OCT 1997



November 21, 1975

Copy No 58



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## ANGOLA: AFTER INDEPENDENCE

The country's first days of independence have been marked by more fighting between forces of the two rival "regimes" that are vying for recognition as the legitimate government. With the continuing efforts of the Africans' regional organization to arrange a truce apparently getting nowhere, the outlook is still for a protracted military struggle in which the foreign support going to the two sides may be decisive.

### On the Scene

[REDACTED]

On November 18, the National Union announced that its forces, which are operating with elements of the National Front, had taken Malanje, one of the Popular Movement's few remaining strongholds in central Angola. Its fall leaves a wide gap between the Movement's forces in Luanda and important units operating from Henrique de Carvalho.

Forces of the National Front that have been moving toward Luanda from the south apparently reached Dondo this week, putting them close to the hydroelectric plant that supplies power to Luanda. North of the capital, the Front may be about to abandon its effort—stalled for nearly a month—to break through the Popular Movement's defenses around Quifangando. Instead, the Front may try to move on the capital from the east.

In Cabinda, where the Popular Movement is strongly entrenched, its forces apparently

succeeded late last week in beating off an invasion attempt from Zaire by a Cabindan separatist group [REDACTED]

On the political level, the Luanda-based Popular Movement regime headed by Agostinho Neto late last week installed an 18-man cabinet in which Neto's lieutenant, Lopo de Nascimento, holds the post of prime minister. He was the Movement's principal representative in the four-party transitional government that collapsed last summer. Both the political and military wings of the Popular Movement are represented in the cabinet. The rival National Front - National Union "government," meanwhile, has had trouble get-

ting off the ground. A leadership slate has still not been announced, but it now appears that neither National Front leader Holden Roberto nor the National Union's Jonas Savimbi will take top positions. Each is hesitant to become too closely linked with the joint government, which they both regard as a marriage of convenience to provide a focus for anti-Soviet foreign support.

#### Foreign Reaction

Partly because of the existence of the competing regimes, most nations—including the bulk of the 46-member states of the Organization of African Unity—are withholding recognition from either Angola claimant. Some 25 governments, including the USSR, Cuba, ten other Communist countries, and ten African states, have recognized Neto's government, however, while no state has formally accepted the National Front - National Union regime. This week, Neto's people unsuccessfully sought admission to the current meeting in London of the International Coffee Council.

The Organization of African Unity is still trying to resolve the Angolan situation through a government of national unity, but its efforts have been impaired by the failure of the ten African states—all radical regimes—that have recognized Neto to abide by the OAU's request to remain neutral. Other OAU members want to avoid any further division over the Angola issue. At present, OAU Chairman Amin's proposal for sending an African peacekeeping force to Angola and calls by Somalia for a summit meeting and by Ethiopia for a foreign ministers' conference show little sign of getting off the ground.

#### The Soviet Role



Holden Roberto

[REDACTED]

At present, there is no firm evidence that Moscow is planning [REDACTED] supply flights to Angola soon. The Soviets will be watching the military situation closely, however, and may well provide further support to the Popular Movement if its fortunes continue to decline.

The USSR has had to pay a price in black Africa for its strong military and diplomatic support of Neto's regime, although Soviet leaders presumably had made a prior determination that the prospect of gaining significant influence in southern Africa was worth the price. A number of African states have been particularly upset by the Kremlin's flouting of the OAU's call for neutrality in the Angolan dispute.

[REDACTED]

#### Cuban Involvement

Concurrent with the Soviet supply airlifts, Havana, probably with a nudge from Moscow, has stepped up its airlift of troops to support the Popular Movement's military operations. Cubans have advised and trained Neto's forces for years, both in Cuba and in Africa. The number of Castro's people involved in the situation has risen sharply in recent months, particularly since the end of September when the airlift apparently began.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Cubans have almost certainly become more directly involved in the Angolan fighting since the tide of battle turned against the Popular Movement last month. They probably played an important role, for example, in the Movement's successful defense, so far, of its position in Cabinda. If Moscow has provided Neto with fighter aircraft, they most likely would be flown by Cuban pilots.

#### Peking Finesses

The Chinese, who have long viewed the Angolan strife in the broader context of Sino-Soviet rivalry, have taken ill-concealed delight in the African backlash to Moscow's heavy-handed involvement with the Popular Movement. Peking's media have been saturated with replays of anti-Soviet articles and statements from numerous African capitals, and Chinese propagandists have authored a number of articles clearly aimed at fanning African emotions.

[REDACTED]